

1-4 AVIATION REGIMENT, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)

IN MEMORIAM...

CW3 REX C. KENYON
8 APRIL 1971 — 16 JANUARY 2006



CW2 RUEL M. GARCIA
24 AUGUST 1971 — 16 JANUARY 2006



"OH, THAT I HAD WINGS LIKE A DOVE, FOR THEN I WOULD FLY AWAY,
AND BE AT REST." — PSALMS 55:6

TRIBUTE TO CW3 REX KENYON AND CW2 RUEL GARCIA



BRAVO COMPANY "RAPTORS"

INSIGHT TO CHARACTER

Chief Warrant Officer Three Rex Kenyon and Chief Warrant Officer Two Ruel Garcia were above all, men of character from which each of us can draw inspiration.

CW3 Kenyon was quite possibly the most passionate man that I have ever met. If he believed in something, it became a conviction for him. He was first and foremost an amazing husband and friend to his wife. Sitting in the box at NTC, I remember seeing Rex pen numerous letters and post cards addressed to her. When I asked him what he was doing, he simply responded, "Writing my wife, Sir." I asked him if he realized that there were no mailboxes where we were, he simply smiled, said "Yes," and continued to write. He spoke of his wife daily and brought her to life with his words in such a way that even those of us who never had the opportunity to know her well, knew her well.

Rex was an attack pilot, period. He loved flying, but more than that, he loved to teach aviators how to fly better. He always said that he could never be an instructor at Fort Rucker. He did not want to become detached from practiced tactics and techniques in order to teach new Apache Pilots how to simply fly the Longbow. He wanted to take those same individuals when they first got to the unit and were most malleable, and create excellent combat aviators, and he was fantastic at it. Patient, thorough, detail-oriented and demanding, Rex dedicated as much time as an aviator needed to any given task, teaching, allowing him to practice and then critiquing until it was done right.

Rex was a man of character. From his birth until his death he strove to better himself and to make the world a better place. He never approached anything half-heartedly. From his exploits on the soccer fields of Europe, to his pinning the rank of Eagle Scout, his youth set the foundation for his future. CW3 Kenyon

traded in a life of engineering for one of slogging through the mud, living in tents, freezing nights on the flight line and being away from those he loved to protect what he believed to be good in this world.

Rex was my standardization pilot. He knew regulations and ensured that his company

abided by them. He was my measure of reason as a commander, often tapping on my door late at night to ask my opinion of something well-meaning, "Sir, we should relook this." And, on occasion, he would just knock and I would be greeted with a smile and he would say, "Sir, I think the company is doing really good." I liked and will miss those knocks.



There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Rex Kenyon was a man of character. I feel like I should write that the world will be less of a place without him, but it won't be. It will be a better place because of him.

CW2 Ruel Garcia epitomizes the spirit of America. As a young man, he journeyed from his home in the Philippines, passed through Hawaii and enlisted into the Air Force. Ruel, was a man of immense character, believing so deeply in supporting and strengthening what is right, he left his home to defend the ideas on which his new one was built.

CW2 Garcia was an old fashioned family man. While dating his fiancé, Apol, he endured countless headaches trying to complete the necessary paperwork to get her into the United States so that they may wed and start a family. He would occasionally come to me and ask for time off so that he could journey to San Antonio and complete INS paperwork. Although the process took a long time, he never let his frustrations affect his work. After he succeeded in moving his fiancé and clearing all of the bureaucratic hurdles, Ruel left for lunch one day and came back a married man. He was not a man that needed pomp and circumstance, he did not need a crowd; he was, simply a man that acted on what he



believed in. He believed in the institution of marriage, and he knew he had found the woman that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with.

Ruel Garcia believed in America and loved the freedoms our Nation offers. He joined the Air Force in 1992 and dedicated years serving his flag. Learning of an opportunity to become a pilot in the Army, he left the Air Force and won an appointment as a Warrant Officer. Somewhere in the middle, this man who believed in taking every advantage of the opportunity to improve himself, completed his electrical engineering degree at the University of Las Vegas at Nevada.

Ruel was an excellent officer. He was a quiet professional

that knew his tasks well. He would disappear for hours at a time, and when you finally found him and presented him with a task, he would tell you that he already knew about it and that he had spent the last couple of hours completing it. His work was always done right the first time.

Ruel's journey through life, leaving the familiar for the unknown and grasping at the chance of something more and the chance at making a difference, would be too much for most. Ruel, however, embraced such situations.

It was no surprise to me when he came and saw me one day in my office and explained to me that he would be leaving the military when we returned from Iraq. His jour-

ney through this part of life was done. Ruel was not the type of man that was tied to things. While being able to retire in seven years had its advantages, he knew that he could get by without the benefits. Something else was calling him and he was ready to answer.

These men were men of character. They loved what they did. They believed in it. They left the earth too soon and with much yet to accomplish. They, however, left us through their teachings as men, the knowledge, the understanding, the insight and the courage to accomplish what they are no longer able to do.

CPT Jeffrey M. Papaleo
B Company Commander

TRIBUTE TO CW3 REX KENYON AND CW2 RUEL GARCIA



I am humbled to have served with two of the most dedicated and outstanding pilots in my young Army career. Rex Kenyon and Ruel Garcia were men of incredible character and strength. They came to work everyday with a smile on their face, eager to teach and learn. They made me a better aviator and person; they made us all better people. I am

truly saddened that I did not know both Rex and Ruel as long as others in the company, but I know that wherever I go, the indelible memories of Rex and Ruel will not be far from my thoughts. I am honored to consider Rex and Ruel my friends.

They are now, and will always be, remembered and missed by me and the rest of their Bravo Company brothers.

1LT Kyle Shouse

B Company Platoon Leader

Mr. Kenyon and Mr. Garcia were outstanding Soldiers that I am proud to have known and served with.

Mr. Garcia was rock solid and I learned so much from him in the short time that I knew him. He was always there whenever I needed something and I leaned on him heavily. If I needed anything, he was the man to talk to.

Mr. Kenyon, I knew an even shorter amount of time, but I quickly became aware that he was something special. He quickly became one of the

cornerstones of the company. I will always remember the infectious smile and positive attitude he had. Regardless of how bad I was feeling, or how rotten of a day I was having, Mr. Kenyon could make me laugh with very few words.

I refuse to remember these men as 'Fallen Angels'. In my mind they are heroes that I will never forget. Mr. Kenyon and Mr. Garcia are angels, risen from this earth to watch over us, keep us safe and guide us along in this life.

1SG Robert D. Lambert

B Company First Sergeant

Rex was an inspiration to all. Rex attained three things in his life that most men never will and that I strive for everyday. He was a good man, good husband and good father.

CW3 Lowell F. Jones II, B Company Pilot





CW3 Rex Kenyon was every bit of a gun pilot as I have ever met. His knowledge of the Apache, tactics, and aviation in general benefited numerous pilots and will continue to be passed down for generations of attack pilots to come. His confidence radiated among all the pilots of Bravo Company and 1-4 ARB and helped to encourage all aviators. Rex's humor was just as vital a part of the company as his knowledge was. Always quick with a joke or always involved with a prank, Rex helped brighten the spir-

its of everyone that he came into contact with.

As great a pilot, Soldier, and teacher as Rex was, he was a better person. I truly believe that Rex cared immensely about every soldier as an individual. He had the ability to talk to the lowest ranking private or the highest ranking general, and he would sound the same talking to either. The thing that impressed me most about Rex though was how much he loved Joo Yung. Every action that Rex did, it was for Joo. He was

probably one of the most unselfish people that I have known. I hope that when I get married, I can show my wife the love and affection that Rex showed to Joo.

CW2 Ruel Garcia was one of the hardest working warrant officers that I have ever met. Every day that Ruel showed up at work, he gave 100% to the Army and this unit. Ruel was always setting new goals for himself and never seemed to fail to achieve them. If Ruel decided to dedicate himself to a cause, he would

without a doubt give his whole-self to the cause and not rest until he had accomplished what he set out to do.

With an ever present smile, Ruel spread cheer to all that he met. I recall very few days that he was not smiling. Ruel was as good a friend as one could ask for and would always give his all to others. He was selfless and dedicated to his friends and family.

1LT Clinton Speegle

B Company Platoon Leader



HIGH FLIGHT

BY JOHN GILLESPIE MAGEE

OH, I HAVE SLIPPED THE SURELY BONDS OF EARTH
AND DANCED THE SKIES ON LAUGHTER SILVERED WINGS.
SUNWARD I'VE CLIMBED,
AND JOINED THE TUMBLING MIRTH OF SUN SPLIT CLOUDS,
AND DONE A HUNDRED THINGS
YOU HAVE NOT DREAMED OF,
WHEELED AND SOARED AND SWUNG HIGH
IN THE SUNLIT SILENCE.
HOVERING THERE,
I'VE CHASED THE SHOUTING WIND ALOFT
AND FLUNG MY EAGER CRAFT
THROUGH FOOTLESS HALLS OF AIR.
UP, UP THE LONG DELIRIOUS BURNING BLUE,
I'VE TOPPED THE WIND SWEEPED HEIGHTS WITH EASY GRACE,
WHERE NEITHER LARK NOR EAGLE FLEW.
AND THERE WITH SILENT LIFTING MIND,
I'VE TROD THE HIGH UNTRESPASSED SANCTITY OF SPACE.

PUT OUT MY HAND AND TOUCHED THE FACE OF GOD.

On January 16, 2006, the 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, lost two of its brothers when their AH-64D Longbow Apache was shot down northwest of Taji, Iraq. The Soldiers, family, and friends of 1-4 Aviation Regiment will always remember

CW3 Rex Christopher Kenyon

and

CW2 Ruel Mamaril Garcia

Always armed with a smile and a lesson, these men gave part of themselves to every person they befriended. We will miss their smiling faces, but we will always keep a little piece of their passion for life, love, and knowledge in ourselves.

The Soldiers of 1-4 Aviation Regiment mourn the loss of these two fine aviators, and wish to extend their sympathies to their friends and families around the world.



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